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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The Holy Scriptures tell us:

"The Lord is my stronghold, my fortress and my champion. My God, my rock where I find safety . . ."

And yet, Lord, even our celebrated stronghold, the home of the brave, our heroic military and their families, Fort Hood, can be penetrated with violence.

Be with those fallen, the wounded and their families, as the Nation mourns with them and prays with them and for them.

Renew the fortress of faith and be their champion over all the forces of evil, those recognized as outside us and the insidious hidden in our midst.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PERLMUTTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, why is it we have finite resources for health care but unlimited money for war? The inequities in our economy are piling up: trillions for war, trillions for Wall Street, tens of billions for insurance companies. Banks and other corporations are sitting on piles of cash and taxpayers' money, while firing workers, cutting pay, and denying small businesses money to survive.

People are losing their homes, their jobs, their health, their retirement security. Yet there is unlimited money for war and Wall Street and insurance companies but very little money for jobs. There is unlimited money to blow up things in Iraq and Afghanistan, relatively little money to build things in the U.S.

The administration will soon bring to Congress a request for an additional \$50 billion for war. I can tell you, a Democratic version of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is no more acceptable than a Republican version of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Trillions for war, for Wall Street, billions for insurance companies. When we were promised change, we weren't thinking it meant we give a dollar and get back 2 cents.

FORT HOOD, TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the bugle sounds Taps. The flags of

Texas and the U.S. are at half staff this crisp morning.

In the hill country of central Texas, at the largest military base, a place called Fort Hood, soldiers and families mourn. They mourn for 13 of their own who have been murdered. They weep for 30 others who fill hospitals because of bullet wounds.

The soldiers were going about the business of making ready to deploy and defend this country overseas against tyranny and terrorism, only to face a terrorist here at home. A radicalized soldier named Nidal Hasan rejected his order to go abroad and took out his anger on those he knew.

We come upon Veterans Day next week where we honor our veterans, but let us here today in Congress on this solemn occasion give thought, prayer, and thanks to the men and women of the military who have volunteered to defend the rest of us against those forces of evil. We mourn with their families. These of our military are a rare breed, a unique breed, the American breed.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to speak out in favor of reforming our health care system to guarantee that every citizen has access to the care that they need when and where they need it, at a price they can afford to pay. People like Jenny, who is a single mother of two asthmatic children who I got the fortune of taking care of. With two asthmatic children, she couldn't afford the price of the prescription drugs they needed to keep her children healthy.

People like Mary with rheumatoid arthritis so severe that she is an expensive date to the insurance companies

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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and for which no other insurance company would take her because of her preexisting condition.

People like Stacie, who had cancer of her thyroid and had it surgically cured, and yet, because of a preexisting condition, would be denied access to the care she needs.

And, finally, people like a 6-day-old child named Hope, who at 6 days of age, through no fault of her own, had to have heart surgery to correct a heart deformity.

We are going to change this health care system and guarantee that no one shall suffer from discrimination any longer in this country.

WRONG BILL AT WRONG TIME

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, all across this country there are families that are waking up concerned about their future. They are concerned about their jobs. They are concerned about what the direction of this country is. We read a new statistic that showed that only 2,500 of the supposed 640,000 jobs that were created or saved by the stimulus were manufacturing jobs. Only 2,500. Manufacturing is good. We need that in this country.

At the same time, we hear this morning that the unemployment now has risen to 10.2 percent. At a time when our Nation is suffering, it is not the time, it is not the place to implement the proposed Nancy Pelosi health care bill.

We need health care reform, but this is the wrong bill at the wrong time. It raises taxes on businesses and individuals. It raises taxes on medical manufacturers. I urge my colleagues to strike this down and kill that bill.

HONORING COLONEL TODD HIXSON

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Colonel Todd Hixson. Colonel Hixson passed away tragically and unexpectedly on Sunday, November 1, 2009, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Along with so many other brave men and women, Colonel Hixson served for many years in the United States Marine Corps. Just a few weeks ago, he returned from his most recent tour of duty in Iraq. I feel privileged to honor such a courageous son of the State of Maryland.

With a heavy and sad heart, I offer my sincere condolences to the family of Colonel Todd Hixson. He was the son of the Honorable Sheila E. Hixson, Maryland State Delegate; and my thoughts and prayers are with her and all of Colonel Hixson's family and friends at this time.

I would also like to call attention to the flag flying over our Capitol today in honor of Colonel Hixson, and it is with great pride that I stand here before my colleagues to pay tribute to him. His courage, bravery, and dedication to his country and family serve as an inspiration to us all. I wish peace to the family and friends of Colonel Todd Hixson, and I thank him for his service to the United States and the State of Maryland.

On this Friday before Veterans Day, we honor Colonel Hixson's memory and all our veterans and service men and women and their families who make their greatest sacrifice for each of us.

PROTECT OUR JOBS

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, a number of years ago, a prominent Democratic political consultant coined the phrase, "It's the economy, stupid." What that meant was, after the issues of national security and personal security, the state of the economy is number one in the minds and hearts of the American people.

We have just heard disturbing news: The unemployment rate is now 10.2 percent, the highest rate in decades. At this point in time when our constituents are worried about jobs, worried about the economy, worried about how they are going to pay their bills, does it make sense for us to rush to judgment on a bill that has been analyzed to show that it is a job killer bill? I refer to the Pelosi health care plan that we are going to be kept in this place this weekend to vote on. Let us hear what the American people are saying. Make sure we protect our jobs, not destroy our jobs.

TOMORROW IS THE DAY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, here's what you are hearing from opponents to health care reform: Nothing scares Members of Congress more than freedom-loving Americans. We should surround the Capitol Building until they give us freedom. This bill is legislative malpractice.

Now these are all catchy phrases. They are catchy phrases that are purposely designed to hide the fact that the Republicans have no viable alternative health care plan. Critics have panned the plan that they have offered. Headlines in The New York Times screamed, "Budget monitor says GOP bill leaves many uninsured." Headlines from The Washington Post booms, "Congressional Budget Office thrashes the Republican health care plan."

The verdict is in: The Republican plan is woefully inadequate. It is not a

cheap alternative. It would cover only three million uninsured. It maintains the status quo for insurance companies. It has no serious reforms to eliminate the perverse incentives in our present payment system.

So the Republican are left with catchy phrases. The American people see through it. That is why they are still supporting this bill. The American people know that the time to enact quality health care is now. Tomorrow is the day.

AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW BEST

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, yesterday was an exciting day for those of us who believe the American people know best. Thousands of people came to Capitol Hill to tell Speaker PELOSI that they do not want her tax increase government takeover of health care. They said that this bill is a bill the American people cannot afford. Republicans in the House agree with them.

Hardworking Americans do not want to pay for abortions and illegal aliens and should not have to pay for them.

Unemployment is now 10.2 percent, and this bill will make it worse. Like other ill-conceived bills such as the wrongly named stimulus bill that the Democrats have crammed down the throats of the American people, the so-called health reform bill will do more harm than good.

Speaker PELOSI, listen to the voices of the American people. My colleagues on the other side, listen to the voices of the American people. Do not vote for more taxes, more government control, and an erosion of our freedoms. Remember, the first three words of the Constitution are, "We the people."

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, a lot of us think we represent the people. With unemployment now over 10 percent, the second biggest issue if you don't have a job is that you don't have health care. We have a lot of problems in our country, unemployment and health care, and hopefully Congress will take that.

We made a step early in the year with a stimulus bill to try and create jobs. It hasn't done what we wanted. We need to do something, but we also need to deal with health care.

Let me take the last part of my time to say our country lost 12 brave soldiers yesterday at Fort Hood, Texas. They were prepared to be deployed to defend our country. I think that is what this House ought to be thinking about today, those families and those soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas.